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SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting hosted by MFRD

From 3 to 5 November 2008, MFRD hosted the Thirty-first Meeting of the Program Committee (PCM) of SEAFDEC in Singapore. The PCM Meeting has been regularly organized by SEAFDEC to review the SEAFDEC programs implemented during the annual period and scrutinize the programs to be implemented in the following year. This is to ensure that the programs are formulated and implemented in line with the priorities and needs of the Member Countries. During the discussion, the

meeting emphasized the importance of SEAFDEC programs in supporting the development of the fisheries sector of the region, and particularly suggested that the economic viability should be investigated for the various technologies developed by SEAFDEC; and activities should emphasized on the role of fisheries in enhancing food security and supporting livelihood of people in the region.

In addition to the program matters (see list of SEAFDEC programs in Page 3), the establishment of the Regional Advisory Committee on Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia (RAC) and the outcomes of the first RAC Meeting in September 2008 was also briefly presented. It was discussed and recommended that

the linkages between the existing SEAFDEC programs and the emerging fisheries management issues based on the outcomes from the First RAC Meeting should also be explored to ensure that the activities under the Program Committee and RAC frameworks be complementary with each other, and the benefits to the Member Countries are maximized.

Another important step in ensuring SEAFDEC programming exercise to be in line with the regional priority issues, and enhancing the sourcing of budgetary support from non-traditional donors is the adjustment of the Program Framework (originally proposed as Program Thrusts during the 29th PCM). The proposed program framework would be finalized by SEAFDEC in close consultation with the Program Committee prior to submission to the 41st SEAFDEC Council Meeting in 2009 for consideration and endorsement.

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ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG/ASSP Meeting convened in Singapore

Back to back with the SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting, the 11th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) was held from 6 to 7 November 2008 in Singapore; and was co-chaired by SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Dr. Siri Ekmaharaj, and Mr. Sanchai Tandavanitj, on behalf of the current Chairman of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF). The Meeting has the main objective of discussing the programs and activities implemented under the ASSP Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) mechanism, the progress

and activities under the ASSP, as well as the policy considerations on important issues.

SEAFDEC has since 1999 established an ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Mechanism with ASEAN to enhance the cooperation among the two organizations on fisheries development in the Southeast Asian region. In 2008, the collaboration between ASEAN and SEAFDEC has been formalized through



the signing of the LOU of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership by the

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